

*Recd*

# MINUTES

OF THE

## FIRST SESSION

OF THE

### Troy Baptist Association,

HELD AT

ORION, PIKE COUNTY, ALA.,

Saturday, November 8th, 1884.

#### OFFICERS:

W. H. LURNETT..... Moderator.  
Q. P. SILER ... Clerk.  
Mc. A. WOOD..... Treasurer.

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## MINUTES.

The Convention called to meet in Orion, Friday before the second Sabbath in November, for the purpose of organizing an Association, was called to order by selecting Bro. J. S. Yarbrough, Chairman, and Q. P. Siler, Clerk.

The following were reported as Messengers from their Churches:

Orion Church—W. H. Talbot, J. S. Yarbrough, D. Graham and Q. P. Siler.

Shiloh Church—Mc. A. Wood, H. C. Cosby, M. W. Gilmer, F. A. Adams, W. H. Kelley and Bur. Ramage.

Olustee Church—W. H. Burnett, S. Curry and J. A. Dennis.

First Troy—M. M. Wamboldt, A. N. Worthy, J. P. Hubbard, B. W. Starke, M. N. Carlisle, E. H. Locke, W. L. Hendrick, W. J. May, G. W. Andrews.

On motion, this Convention adjourned to meet to-morrow, Saturday, at 10 A. M. for the purpose of organizing an Association.

### SATURDAY.

NOVEMBER 8, 1884.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock A. M. according to appointment, and was called to order by Bro. J. S. Yarbrough, and proceeded to organize an Association by election of the following officers, by ballot:

Moderator, W. H. Burnett; Clerk, Q. P. Siler; Treasurer, Mc. A. Wood.

On motion, a Committee of three were appointed to draft a Constitution for Said Association, to-wit:

M. M. Wamboldt, J. S. Yarbrough and Mc. A. Wood.

Also, a Committee on By-Laws and Decorum, as follows:

W. L. Hendrick, H. C. Cosby and D. Graham.

The Committee on Constitution reported the following, which was adopted

# CONSTITUTION.

## ARTICLE I.

This Union of Churches shall be denominated the Troy Association, and shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats. The letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches, respectively, viz: The members received by baptism, letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last Association, and also moneys contributed to the various denominational interests, which letter shall be read and the delegates' names enrolled.

## ARTICLE II.

The Association shall annually, upon convening, proceed to choose from the members present, a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

Section 1. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the body and appoint all committees unless otherwise instructed.

Sec. 2. The Clerk shall keep and preserve on file for the use of each session, a correct minute of the proceedings of this Association, and shall attend to the printing and distributing of the same.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall safely keep all moneys paid to him by the Association, or otherwise, and pay the same only on order of the Association, and take receipts for the same.

## ARTICLE III.

Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and when its membership exceeds fifty, then one for each twenty-five or fractional part thereof.

## ARTICLE IV.

Any church applying for membership may be admitted into this union on sending their delegates to any meeting with a petition and by those delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles and the Constitution adopted by this Association. Said church to be received by a unanimous vote and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator.

## ARTICLE V.

At each session a committee shall be appointed to select brethren to address the next session on the following subjects: Missions, Sunday Schools, Education, and Temperance.

## ARTICLE VI.

This Association shall have no power to interfere or infringe upon the internal rights and privileges of the churches, and shall pass no resolutions touching the liberty of the churches, or individual members thereof. But each church shall be considered a sovereign and independent body.

## ARTICLE VII.

There shall be no matter of dealing introduced by any individual member but it shall be sent up by a church or churches clearly set forth in writing. Then the Association may take it under consideration and a decision by a majority shall be an advisory answer.

## ARTICLE VIII.

Any church may at any session make application for dismissal, and if said application is refused, then may withdraw at her own discretion.

## ARTICLE IX.

It shall be the duty of this Association to encourage the work of Sunday Schools, Education, Temperance, and all Missionary enterprises fostered by our denomination.

## ARTICLE X.

Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

The Committee on By-Laws and Decorum reported the following, which was adopted :

## RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to hold their offices until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak on points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association, by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those voting in the affirmative shall first arise from their seats, and afterwards those voting in the negative.

6. In all cases of election, the Moderator may vote; in other cases, he shall not vote, unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak on any question, provided he shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking.

7. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities.

8. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise he shall not be permitted to proceed, in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

9. When two or more members happen to rise at once the Moderator shall name the one who is to speak first.

10. No member shall speak more than once to the same question, without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

11. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason, excuse him.

12. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair; or, being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator, and read aloud before debated.

13. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

14. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn, by leave of the Association, at any time before a decision or amendment.

15. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for previous question, to postpone to a day certain, commit, amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

16. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

17. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate; and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking, or the body engaged in voting.

18. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after the motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

19. The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate, and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any; upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

20. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

21. When a motion has been once made and carried, in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

22. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator; or leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

23. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission of the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

On motion, the following Articles of Faith were adopted:

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD.—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah; the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. OF THE FALL OF MAN.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state ; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions ; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took on him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by His death ; being risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient savior.

V. OF JUSTIFICATION.—That the great Gospel blessing, which Christ of His fulness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification ; and justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness ; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. OF THE FREEDOM OF SALVATION.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel ; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial and obedient faith ; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again ; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind ; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel ; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sacrifices and saves sinners ; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end ; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable ; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy ; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree ; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel ; is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.—That such only are real believers as endure to the end ; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial profession ; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government ; that it is holy, just and good ; that the inability which the Scripture ascribes to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin ; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws,



and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word ; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties, are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XII. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer, in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our *faith* in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power ; and that it is a prerequisite to the relatives of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XIII. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

XV. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked ; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem ; while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse ; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. OF THE WORLD TO COME.—That the end of this world is approaching ; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution ; that a solemn separation will then take place ; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy ; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

On motion, a Committee on Religious services was appointed, as follows :

M. W. Pennington and E. J. Harris.

Said committee reported as follows : M. M. Wamboldt, to preach to-morrow at 11 A. M.

Letters from First Baptist Church, Troy, Shiloh and Orion Churches, were read by brethren J. S. Yarbrough and M. M. Wamboldt.

On motion, a Committee on Nominations was appointed as follows :

Committee—Mc. A. Wood, D. Graham, W. L. Hendrick.

Also Committee on Addresses for the next session, to-wit :

Committee—A. N. Worthy, J. P. Wood, Q. P. Siler.

On motion, adopted the following Order of Business :



## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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1. Association called to order by Moderator.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
5. Visiting brethren invited to seats.
6. Receive petitions from churches desiring membership.
7. Appoint committees to report during session—
  - On Religious Exercises.
  - On Finance and Auditing.
  - On Documents and Requests.
  - On Nominations.
8. Call for Correspondence.
9. Read Rules of Order.
10. Hear Reports from Committees and Treasurer.
11. Return Correspondence.
12. Appoint Committees to report next meeting—
  - On Home and State Missions.
  - On Foreign Missions.
  - On Sabbath Schools.
  - On Temperance.
  - On Education.
  - On Bible and Colportage.
  - On Indigent Ministers.
13. Hear Miscellaneous Business.
14. Call Roll and erase absentees.
15. Arrange for printing minutes.
16. Correct minutes and adjourn.

On motion, the churches were instructed to send up all contributions for denominational work to the Treasurer of this Association, specifying how such contributions shall be applied, he to take receipts for the same and report at the next session.

On motion, adjourned till 7 o'clock P. M.

### NIGHT SESSION.

7 O'CLOCK P. M.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows, which was adopted :

Your Committee on Nominations make the following report :

The place for holding the next annual session of this Association to be Troy, and time Friday before the first Sunday in September, A. D. 1885. To preach the introductory sermon, Rev. J. S. Yarbrough ; to preach the missionary sermon, Rev. M. M. Wamboldt.

On motion, we open up a correspondence with the following Associations : Montgomery, Centennial, Eufaula and Salem.

On motion, recognize visiting brethren from other Associations as correspondents, whereupon the following reported :

Montgomery Association—E. P. Johnson, E. J. Harris.  
Centennial—M. W. Pennington, J. A. Pennington.

The following brethren volunteered as delegates to the following Associations :

Montgomery—M. M. Wamboldt, W. H. Talbot.  
Centennial—Mc. A. Wood, H. C. Cosby.  
Eufaula—Mc. A. Wood, M. M. Wamboldt.  
Salem—Mc. A. Wood, Q. P. Siler, W. H. Barnett.

*Resolved*, That any member of this Association being present at any session of an Association with which we correspond is authorized to represent this Association as correspondent.

*Resolved*, That this Association tender this community thanks for the kindness and hospitality with which they have entertained this body.

On motion, adjourned to meet with Troy First Baptist Church, Friday before the first Sabbath in September, A. D. 1885.

W. H. BURNETT, Moderator.

Q. P. SILER, Clerk.



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